

AMMAA NEWS

Publication of the
Armenian Missionary Association of America
140 Forest Ave., Paramus, NJ 07652
June, 1980 Vol. XIV, No. 3
Telephone (201) 265-2607, 2608

This Issue
Dedicated to the
Rev. Antranig A.
Bedikian
(Pp. 1-10)



"Well done, good and faithful servant;
thou has been faithful over a few things,
I will make thee ruler over many
things: enter thou into the joy of
thy Lord."
Matt. 25:23

Rev. Antranik A. Bedikian

THANK YOU REVEREND BEDIKIAN

This issue of the AMAA NEWS is gratefully dedicated to the Reverend Antranig Arakel Bedikian who entered his eternal rest on February 17, 1980, at the age of 94. A memorial service was held at the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York, the Church to which he gave pastoral leadership for 38 years, on Sunday, March 2, 1980. Ten persons representing both the Bedikian family and the institutions and churches which he served paid tribute to him. The service was a celebration of a committed life. The tributes to the Reverend Bedikian submitted to the Editor, both those given at the service and others, are being reproduced in the following pages. The AMAA's memorial tribute, given at the services by the Editor, is this issue's editorial:

A week ago I received a letter from an in-law of the Reverend Antranig Arakel Bedikian from which I quote this one sentence:

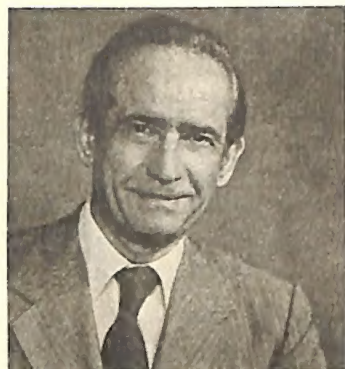
"He was a dedicated man with many faceted abilities and accomplishments, the greatest and most lasting of which was, in my opinion, the founding of AMAA. I remember distinctly the indefatigable efforts he put in, along with his many church responsibilities, to bring the Association into being and put it on solid foundations."

The statement is so true, one could just stop at that. Some definitions are appropriate as a final and lasting tribute. The abilities mentioned were endowed qualities of greatness — native intelligence, effective versatility, acute perceptivity, creative imagination, indefatigable industry, trusting faith, and an iron will.

The late and our beloved Dr. Dicran Kassouny wrote these words of tribute in 1975 in the *Outlook* which was dedicated to the Reverend Bedikian: "He was one who through a long and fruitful life has earnestly and assiduously, with a deep sense of responsibility and calling, made careful use of time and talent for the spiritual enlightenment, intellectual growth and social solidarity of his Armenian people." That was his other genius — an *Armenian universality*, which he maintained while devoting himself to the more specific tradition of his own personal belief, the Armenian Evangelical Movement and its missionary outreach, the AMAA, which he loved like the apple of his eye and served on a gratuitous basis with heart and soul.

The Reverend Bedikian witnessed, and also played a key role, in the founding of the Association in 1918 and its incorporation as a New York-based charitable organization in 1920. He was the major spirit to generate enthusiasm and zeal for missions and was instrumental in making the Association respond in loving ways to the heartbreaking calls for help from the Middle East and Europe.

The Reverend Bedikian believed in the Armenian Missionary Association because he first believed in the essential truth of the Gospel which is the Good News to man that God wills the lame to walk, the blind to see, the naked to be clothed, the hungry fed, the prisoner liberated. He held tenaciously, and well he might as a former "Fellow" in the Department of New Testament Studies in Chicago University, to the revelation of Jesus who identified himself with the prediction of Isaiah, "I the Lord have called thee in righteous-



G.H. Chopourian

ness To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house." He believed in the Association because he next believed in his people whom, like Peter the Apostle, he considered to be "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a dedicated nation, and a people claimed by God for his own, to proclaim the triumphs of him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." The convergence of these two convictions illumined a flame in his heart and generated a great urgency to serve his people in speech and word, in pen and ink, and in love and service, specially between 1923 and 1947 before lovingly placing the mantle of service upon a younger man, the Rev. Puzant Kalfayan, the first salaried Executive Secretary, as Elijah cast his mantle upon the prophet Elisha. His Church office became also the AMAA office, the executive bodies of the church, to whom be eternal glory, freely placing all the church facilities at the disposal of the Association. In fact, his church gave him a year's leave of absence so he could travel throughout the United States to visit all the churches and receive their **enthusiasm** and **financial** support for Missions. Thus motivated, the Reverend Bedikian served the AMAA as a hard-working volunteer for twenty-five years in various capacities such as Executive Secretary, Recording Secretary of the Council which surveyed overseas needs, Editor of AMAA publications — the **Lradoo** and **Avetakir** — Public Relations man and Campaigner for funds, a package few men would qualify to fill.

What a glorious heritage he left behind to his successors who have added a few more stones to that foundation built upon faith, enthusiasm and love. His will be a shining example to be followed next to the example of the Star of Bethlehem — an example of hard work, selfless service, committed outreach, dedicated motives and action, bright vision of the responsibility of Christians to God and to man.

Jointly with his beloved wife Marie, the Bedikian family had a constructive impact on great minds and great people. They were able to make many able men and women close

Note: Rev. Bedikian's Library has been obtained by the AMAA. The family of the deceased has designated that memorial gifts made to the AMAA be used for the expenses needed for establishing the Antranig A. Bedikian Memorial Library.

ranks to serve the AMAA. Mrs. Bedikian's church and professional career as a marvelous singer contributed to a full and rich life both for the family and the AMAA. In fact, she became the **Groong** for the sorrowed immigrants, soothing their lonely pilgrimage.

We thank God that through **His Grace** the Reverend Bedikian has left us a heritage that has emphasized the best in human endeavor and the highest God-directed vision. May the torch of intellectual, literary, religious and humanitarian brightness, husband and wife together lit, continue to

light the path of future generations of Armenians young and old.

May his great memory give peace and consolation to his dear wife Marie and her kin, to his daughter Gloria and her husband Dr. Fred Ayzavian, and his granddaughters Leslie, Andrea and Gina, and sister Lucy Gabriel.

The President of the Association, Mr. Samuel Hekemian, and the Board of Directors, while extending their sympathies to the bereaved, feel a strong sense of celebration in their hearts for a life that contributed its "UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST."



Rev. Antranig Bedikian as a young boy, with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. Arakel



Antranig and his sister Lucy (Mrs. Gabriel).



Rev. and Mrs. A. A. Bedikian and daughter Gloria



Andrea Ayzavian



Gina Ayzavian



Leslie Ayzavian

INSPIRATIONAL CORNER

The old priest, who was dying, composed himself on his bed and said a prayer for the repose of his soul. He was troubled about Heaven and Hell. What were they like? God knows he had spent a lifetime preaching about both places. Now, at age 84, he wasn't sure.

Dimly, he saw two figures at the foot of his bed. He knew who they were. The tall muscular one was Moses, and the other was Peter the fisherman. When they beckoned to the priest, he got up and followed, walking through the wall of his bedroom. Silently, they led him through the galaxies of the night sky. In a far-off place, they stopped before a big house. "The kingdom of God is made of many mansions," Peter explained. "So too is Hell. Step inside. We will show you the first room of Satan's palace."

As the priest walked in, his ears were assaulted by a babble of complaints. Many people were seated at a large table.

In the center there was a big pot of the priest's favorite dish, beef stew. Although everyone in Hell had a spoon and could reach the pot, the people were starving. The spoon handles that were attached to their hands were twice as long as their arms. They could catch the stew, but they couldn't bring it to their lips. The cries of the starving were so loud that the priest begged to be taken away.

Peter and Moses took him to another mansion in a far-away place. Moses invited the priest to step inside the outer room of Paradise. There the priest saw a similar large table surrounded by many people. In the center was a huge pot of beef stew. The spoon handles were too long for human arms, but there were no cries of complaint. No one was starving. All the people were feeding each other.

— Jim Bishop, King Features

TRIBUTES TO THE REV. ANTRANIG A. BEDIKIAN

- by MR. GEORGE PHILIBOSIAN
Moderator, Armenian Evangelical Union of North America

Dear Mrs. Bedikian:

It is with a deep sense of loss and sorrow that we have learned of the death of your beloved husband, The Rev. A.A. Bedikian.

On behalf of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America, and personally, I am respectfully extending to you, and your dear ones, our most heartfelt condolences and sympathies on this sad occasion.

The Rev. Bedikian and the impact of his personality have been unique in the life of our Evangelicals, in this twentieth century.

It is a fact that the towering personality of this foremost scholar and theologian of our people has been in the forefront of any far-sighted idea than was entertained, or worthy project that was accomplished, in the service of the Armenians, Evangelicals and beyond, during the last many decades.

Indeed, one can think of no other person whose life of achievements has been so rich and fruitful in the thoroughness and depth of his thoughts, the excellence of his writ-

ing and preaching, and in the determined implementation of his incessant flow of ideas, for the overall well-being of our people.

I can, therefore, assure you and the rest of your bereaved family that the entire Armenian Community is mourning today the loss of this great leader of theirs.

May your saddened days ahead be somehow more bearable knowing that the love, respect and admiration for the legacy of the incredible achievements and invaluable service The Rev. Bedikian rendered to us are a most lasting and cherished memory for us all.

May the soul of this noble and most accomplished servant of our Lord and His people, a great man and a great Armenian, forever rest in peace.

- by THE REV. DR. VAHAN H. TOOTIKIAN

Pastor of the Armenian Congregational Church of Greater Detroit

The oldest and most esteemed member of the Armenian Evangelical Ministerium, The Reverend Antranig Arakel Bedikian, entered his rest on February 17, 1980.

Born in Bardizag, Turkey, Rev. Bedikian's roots lay in

his early nurture in a pastor's home. His father, Reverend Arakel Bedikian (Kissag) presented the model of the pastor-scholar. Standing in that tradition, pastor Antranig Bedikian became a keen observer, a perceptive analyst of our culture and society, one of the most notable Armenian clergymen, who provided a prophetic vision for the Armenian community by bringing to the humane scene a depth of social, philosophical and spiritual reflection. His sermons, lectures and writings had a profound impact on many people. He became a myth in his own time.

His was an amazingly long, rich and useful life; a career spanning more than seven decades during which his talents were wisely invested in uplifting his fellow compatriots.

His long life has also spanned the most creative decades in the Armenian Evangelical movement, for the upbuilding of which he spared no effort.

The Armenian Evangelicals in North America, as well as in other parts of Armenian Diaspora, owe a great deal to the genius, courage and tenacity of Rev. Bedikian. He played a giant role in our community life for decades as the leader and personification of the Armenian Evangelical movement. He was a towering personality, a natural

leader whose words and acts stand out on almost every page of the annals of Armenian Protestantism from 1915 until his complete retirement from public life in the early 1970's.

Rev. A.A. Bedikian was one of the founders of the Armenian Missionary Association of America in 1918. For many years he served the Association in various capacities with great dedication. His ability to organize and supervise, his brilliant communication, and P.R. job made his role crucial to the AMAA.

Endowed with numerous qualities of greatness - intelligence, industry, faith, imagination, an iron will - Rev. Bedikian never ceased to fascinate all who knew him. His restless genius would permit no pause. He displayed a vast talent, and boundless energy which were reflected in achievements that make up a rich legacy. The account of long hours, of prodigious feats of research, of schedules of lecturing, of writing editorials and articles for half a dozen papers, of public involvement which until a few years ago never seemed to have waned, gave one the impression that his energy and industry seemed inexhaustible.

As might be expected, Rev. Bedikian had a very large

- by LESLIE AYVAZIAN ANDERSON

Granddaughter of Rev. A.A. Bedikian

It is an honor for me to stand at this pulpit where my grandfather stood, and to speak to you, his friends. And it is an honor for me to speak for my family.

It is my feeling that everyone here holds something dear and personal in their hearts about Rev. A.A. Bedikian. It is as though he has given us all individually wrapped gifts of love. For my part, one of the things I know most surely is that my two sisters and I were precious to our Papa. Whenever he saw us, he would embrace us fully, with his arms and with his spirit. As my grandmother, Nonnie, would say, he was our fan. And we were his. We still are and always

Antranig, as the name implies, was the first-born child of the beloved and renowned pastor Reverend and Mrs. Arakel Bedikian. He was born on May 30, 1885 in Bardizag, and received his primary education at Bardizag High School, his college education at Robert College, receiving his A.B. in 1907. From 1907 to 1912 he taught at his Alma Mater. From 1912 to 1915 he studied theology and sociology at the University of Chicago, receiving his Ph.B., M.A., and B.D. degrees.

Mr. Bedikian had intended to return to Robert College after his studies in America and serve as a professor in his Alma Mater. Due to political circumstances during the first World War his plans had to be changed. Robert College's loss became the gain of the Armenian Evangelical Church and the community.

Mr. Bedikian accepted the invitation of the church and started his ministry on April 1, 1915. He was ordained on June 17 of the same year. Pastor Bedikian served the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York and the community, for a record period of 38 years, 1915-1953. At the time of his retirement from active ministry he became the Pastor Emeritus of the church and continued rendering various valuable services.

Pastor Bedikian served only one church during his long and distinguished ministry. To our knowledge no other Armenian minister has served only one church during his whole ministerial career. It is no wonder that even now, after so many years, people popularly refer to his church as "Bedikian's Church."

The Reverend Mr. Bedikian was rightfully proud of his famous father and his many devotional writings under the pen name of "Kissag." There is no doubt in our mind that his father, the Rev. Arakel Bedikian, in turn, would have been equally proud of the accomplishments of his son.

For 38 years actively and for a longer period of time practically, the Rev. Antranig Bedikian has been the mainspring of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. He has been a scholar, historian, a prolific writer, editor, crusader, social worker and com-

Biographical Sketch

munity leader. All this in addition to being a prominent pastor and father to his people.

His services and benevolent influences have run over into the Armenian Community, and through his affiliation with the Armenian Evangelical Union, into the United States and abroad. He was "employed" (for lack of a better word) by a local church but the church he served had no walls or boundaries. His influence was felt and appreciated far and near.

The Rev. A.A. Bedikian was one of the founding fathers and a lifelong supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. He served it for many years as a capable executive secretary, gratis, in addition to his regular pastoral duties. He always remained a valuable member of this organization.

The Armenian General Benevolent Union was also another charitable organization that benefited from the leadership and devotion of Rev. Mr. Bedikian.

Pastor Bedikian was always active in denominational, community, literary, patriotic and religious organizations too numerous to count.

Antranig Arakel Bedikian was a legend. He was a "Church Father". He was an institution within himself. He was "the Bedikian of this church" and this still is "Bedikian's Church."

Pastor Emeritus A.A. Bedikian lived in Leonia, New Jersey, with his devoted wife, Mrs. Marie Caroline Bashian Bedikian. They were married more than 60 years ago, on June 2, 1919. Mrs. Bedikian is an outstanding person in her own right. She is an Honorary Mother of our church.

They have a daughter Gloria, Mrs. L. Fred Ayvazian, and three grandchildren, Leslie, Andrea and Gina. On the occasion of this Memorial Service, we express again our love and deep respect to the memory of our beloved Pastor Emeritus. We also extend our heartfelt condolences and Christian love to our beloved Mrs. Marie Bedikian, who now is and will always be the "Mother Emeritus" in our hearts.

S.K. Sulahian

will be. He lives inside us, our Papa. In the battle between good and evil in this world, Papa was a champion of the good.

I want to say thank you to him in this church, with you. I want to thank him for the inspiration he provided all his life in the way that he lived and the way that he loved.

I saw Papa the day before he died. He was asleep. His expression was serene. His countenance was noble. I felt peaceful as I sat with him. It was clear to me that he was teaching me still. Just as he taught me lessons about life, he taught me about death. From now on, I know I have a friend in heaven. I want to say that in sign language, because sign language is beautiful, and it speaks to me of him:

(in sign) He gave me a friend in heaven. And I say thank you from us all.

եւ լճացեալ վիճակն էր: Վիճակը՝ հոգեւորապէս դէպի կորուստ վազող մեր ժողովուրդին, ու կորսուելու վրայ եղող մեր հոգեւոր թանկագին ժառանգութեան:

Բեռ կար սրտին վրայ: Ու սրտին մէջ՝ կրա՛կ եւ փոթորի՛կ ու կի՛րք . . . : Եւ աչքերուն մէջ՝ արցո՛ւնք . . . : Ու տեսայ ձեռքը՝ յաճախ բռնեցք դարձած — յայտարար՝ ներքին տուայտանքին ու պրկումներուն: Եւ իր խօսքը «Պատգամ» էր: Ու պատգամէ աւելի՛ աչք թրջող ու սիրտեղ նուաճող Մարտահրաշէր: Տեսակ մը Պարտադրանք ու սրբազան Կոչ: Ինք պիտի ըսէր. «անմիջական եւ ամբողջական նուիրում, ու նուիրման անյետաճգելի Ստիպողութիւն»:

Որքան ազնիւ ու հեզ, նոյնքան ալ խիզախ եւ անշահախնդիր այս մարդիկը ունէին ՏԵՍԻԼՔ ու ՆՈՒԻՐՈՒՄ: Կը սիրէին զԱստուած անկեղծութեամբ ու կը սիրէին ազգը սրտանց: Ու սէրը՝ հրայրք իրենց ներսիդին, խենթ՝ այդ սիրով, պատրաստ էին անոնք ծայրագոյն զոհաբերութիւններու, ու պատրաստ՝ մեռնելու, միայն՝ որ եկեղեցին արթննայ եւ ազգը փրկուի: Այս էր Գիսակի որդւոյն՝ Վեր. Անդրանիկ Պետիկեանի խօսքը, եւ ա՛յս իր պատգամը: Առաւել՝ հարցում մը: Օ՛ր, այդ հարցումը, այդ նետուած հարցումը, որ դեռ միտուած կը մնայ մեր ուղեղին ու սրտին մինչեւ խորերը որպէս հրեղէն նիզակ — «Եղբայրներ, ի՞նչ ընենք որ փրկուինք, ու կարենանք փրկել հոգեւորապէս վտանգուած մեր ազգը. . . »:

Յայտնապէս վրդովուած էր «Թիւ Մէկ Աւետարանականը»: Վրդովեալ էր հոգին, ու շունչը՝ վրդովիչ: Կ'ուզէր որ մեր պատմութեան առաջին էջը իր արցունքոտ եւ արիւնոտ դրոպներով՝ դառնայ մեզի «տեսիլք» ու «մտաւեւոյ՛ւմ»: Դառնայ «սրտի բեռ», «մտահոգութիւն» ու «հրայրք. . . »: Կ'այրէր ներքնապէս. եւ կ'ուզէր անպայման բռնկեցնել նաեւ մեզ: ԱՌԱՔԵԼՈՒԹԻՒՆ մը ունէր կատարելիք — Նոր «ցունց» մը տալ Հայաստանեայց Աւետարանական եկեղեցիներուն: Եւ ասով՝ փրկարար ու սրբացուցիչ ՇԱՐԺՈՒՄ մը յառաջացնել մեր ամբողջ ազգին մէջ:

«ՀՈՂ ԷՒՐ, ՀՈՂԻ՞Ն ԴԱՆՆԱՍ» . . »

ՎԵՐ. Ա. Ա. ՊԵՏԻԿԵԱՆԻ ԳՐԶԷՆ—

Բնութիւնը աշնան եղանակին զարմանալի յեղաշրջութեան մէջ կ'ըլլայ: Ամբողջ բուսականութիւնը իր կենսական գործողութիւնները հետզհետէ կը դադրեցնէ. իր կենսահիւթը — աւիշը — կը քաշէ, կը ժողվէ, կը պահպանէ ձմրան սառոյցին դէմ, իր արմատներուն երակներուն մէջ, հողին ծածկոցին տակ: Կեանքը ժամանակաւորապէս վերջ կը գտնէ իր մէջ եւ կը սկսի ձմրան իր խաղաղ քունը: Կանաչութեան կենդանութիւնը կը փոխուի մահուան դալուկի. վկայ սա դեղնած տերեւները որոնք կը թափթփին մեռած թիթեռնիկներու պէս: Այն տերեւները՝ որոնք իրենց առուգութեան օրերուն՝ հովերուն կը դիմադրէին անխզելիօրէն կապուած մնալով իրենց ոստերուն, հիմա սրւքի մը փայփայանքին ալ չեն դիմանար եւ կ'իյնան գետին մահացեալ:

Բայց ուրկէ՞ էին տերեւները որոնք մինչեւ երէկ մերկ ծառը հարսի մը պէս հագուեցուցած էին: Պատասխանը մէկ բառ է — հողէն: Եւ ի՞նչ է ճակատագիրը սա աշնանային դալկացած տերեւներուն: Նմանապէս հողին դառնալ, հող ըլլալ: Լա՛ւ. բայց երեւոյթը շիտակ մեկնենք: Ինչ ըսել է «հողին դառնալ» կամ, «հող ըլլալ»: Մեռնի՞լ. ո՛չ երբեք: Երբ հողը «մայր» է կեանքի, կրնա՞յ միթէ նաեւ դահիճը ըլլալ կեանքի: Անշուշտ ո՛չ:

Հապա ուրկէ՞ ծնան թարմ տերեւները երբ ձմեռը անցաւ եւ դարուն եկաւ: Հողէն անշուշտ: Բնութեան արգանդն է հողը: Ու երբ այսպէս հողէն ծնածը հողին կը դառնայ ի՛նքն ալ կ'ըլլայ ծնանող: Ի՛նչքան խորունկ է այս երեւոյթին խորհուրդը:

Մահուան երեւոյթին ետին պահած է կեանքի իրականութեան հաստիքը: Թափող տերեւը ողբերգի նիւթ մի՛ ընէք, հապա՛ յոյսի եւ երանութեան նիւթ ըրէք: Ըսէ՛ք նորէն «Տերեւ, հող էիր, հողին կը դառնաս» բայց բացատրութեան դրական եւ իրական հասկացողութեամբ, այսինքն, հողէն կեանք

առաւ ան, հիմա կը դառնայ կեանքի նոյն աղբիւրին վերստին կեանք առնելու անկէ:

Երբ մարդկային էակ մը մեռնի անոր համար ալ կ'ըսեն աւանդաբար «հող էիր, հողին դառնաս»: Այո՛, եթէ տերեւին պարագային մեր տուած մեկնութիւնովը գործածենք այդ կրկնուած բանաձեւը: Եւ որպէսզի որեւէ չփոթութիւն չունենանք, լաւագոյն է բնաւ չգործածել «հող էիր, հողին դառնաս» բացատրութիւնը: Նախընտրելի բացատրութիւնը պիտի ըլլար, «Աստուծա՛մէ եկար, Աստուծոյ կը դառնաս»:

Եզրակացութիւն — Բնութեան մէջ մահ չկայ: Զկայ նաեւ մահ մարդկային կենդանութեան մէջ: Մահը երեւոյթ մըն է սոսկ զգացական եւ երեւութական: Կը մեռնինք, աշնան տերեւին պէս, բայց ապրելու համար: Ինչպէս բանաստեղծը երգած է.

Կեանքն իրական է եւ փութացան Անոր վախճան չէ գերեզման:

Քանի խորանանք մեր խորհուրդին ալբերուն մէջ այնքան անվիճելի պիտի գտնենք կեանքի տեսականութեան համոզումը՝ թէ՛ Փիղիբալան եւ թէ՛ հոգեկան աշխարհներուն մէջ: Այս համոզման լոյսին մէջ՝ մեր հաւատքը Աստուծոյ բոլոր ստորոգելիներուն վրայ՝ կրնանք հաստատ պահել: Եթէ յաւիտեակա՛ն Աստուած մը կայ՝ ուրեմն, յաւիտեակա՛ն կեանք ըլլալու է անհրաժեշտաբար:

Սկսուած կեանքը չվերջանար, միայն կրնայ «փոխուիլ», ինչպէս տերեւը կը փոխուի — կանաչը կը դեղնի եւ հողի կը վերածուի տա՛կալին ապրելով կեանք էական տարրը իր մէջ պահելով, ինչպէս բացատրեցինք: Կեանքը՝ կեանքէ աւելի ալ, անդին ալ, թէեւ արտաքին հագուստի մը տարբերութիւնով: Փիլիսոփայական տրամաբանութեան եզրակացութիւնը բոլորովին համաձայն է նաեւ Յիսուս Քրիստոսի տուած հաւաստիքներուն որոնց ամէնքս ալ ընտանի ենք: Ա. Ա. Պ.

SILVER JUBILEE OF HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE

— by Vahe S. Roubian,
Chairman, Haigazian College, Eastern Committee

As a reader of the **AMAA NEWS**, you may hardly need an introduction to the Haigazian College. Suffice it to say that it is one of the only two Armenian institutions of higher education in the world outside Soviet Armenia. At one time, there were thirteen Armenian Colleges throughout Turkey. At the present, there isn't even one.

The year 1980 is the 25th birthday of the College. The Board of Trustees, and the Board of Managers are planning many celebrations throughout the U.S.A. and abroad. In larger cities such as New York, Los Angeles, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington and others, banquets are being planned from now through the end of the year. In some smaller towns and cities where there are Armenian communities we would like to encourage gatherings or house parties.

The purpose of all this is to give Haigazian College a birthday gift for its 25 years of service in enriching the minds of Armenian young men and women, thus strengthening them mentally, morally and spiritually.

The gift we are planning to give is to increase the College's \$500,000 endowment fund to \$1,000,000.

At the present, Dr. John Markarian, the President of the College, is spending a lot of his time in the U.S. contacting philanthropic Armenians to raise this fund.

Students come to the College from all walks of life and from all religious groups, predominantly from Orthodox or Apostolic Churches. In like manner, the graduates (approximately 1,000) also serve our Armenian communities, irrespective of their religious, ethnic and political affiliations. Under one roof, the College's student body represents an extremely wide variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds, thus making the College a stimulating and intensely exciting environment where various cultures meet in close proximity and harmony.

A bishop of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Bishop

Sumbat Lapajian, one of the first two graduates of Haigazian College, writes. . .

"Haigazian College has a unique standing among the other educational institutions in the Middle East. The ecumenical character of the College sets a good example for many other schools. Various groups and denominations work and live side by side in this wonderful College in sincere fellowship and communication."

UNITY is perhaps best illustrated, demonstrated and practiced within the walls of the College.

After these introductory remarks, you will undoubtedly want to know just what you can do to help. May I make the following suggestions?

A. You can send your monetary contribution towards this endowment fund. Make your TAX DEDUCTIBLE check payable to:

HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE — AMAA
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

You may use the coupon below.

B. Better yet. . .

You may invite a few of your friends and relatives to organize a house party for this purpose, involving them in this project. If you indicate your wish to hold a house party on the coupon, we'll help you with it.

As the saying goes, "Strength is in Unity." Let's join hands in this great venture.

The AMAA or the Trustees have speakers for this purpose. You may call on them. For further information or help you may write or phone the AMAA office or the H.C. Trustees.

East Coast
H.C. Eastern Committee
140 Forest Ave.
Paramus, NJ 07652
(201) 265-2607, 2608

West Coast
H.C. Board of Trustees
Mrs. Helen Grimsley, Sec.
149 No. Mansfield Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(213) 934-7111

The Haigazian College on the occasion of its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary is increasing its Endowment Fund to One Million Dollars. Interest from this Fund is used for Scholarships and to help the college meet its annual expenses. Your gift listed by Category, will be inscribed on a large Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Scroll to be erected in the entrance of the Mugar Building of the College in Beirut.

Please designate the Category of your gift as listed below:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The | \$ 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend of Haigazian College | \$ 500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter of Haigazian College | \$ 1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President's Circle | \$ 5000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor of Haigazian College | \$ 10,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron of Haigazian College | |

You may wish to make your gift in the form of a Designated Grant, to be named in honor or in memory of an individual or family. These types of grants are listed:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The | Scholarship Fund \$ 25,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The | Chair of Armenian Studies \$ 100,000 |
| Departmental Chairs in the following fields: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Administration | \$ 100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Sciences | \$ 100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Sciences | \$ 100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Humanities | \$ 100,000 |

These gifts are Income Tax deductible. Please make out your check to Haigazian College-AMAA and send it to HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY FUND, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, New Jersey 07652.

Name.

Address. Telephone.

☐ I will help with a house party. Please provide information.

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS

KIWANIANS PROMOTE AMAA'S CHILD EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The illustrated story below, taken from *The Citizen-Advance* newspaper of Copperhill, Tennessee of March 20, 1980, speaks for itself. What do you do personally, dear reader, to support the Program?



ALDRSGATE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WILL RECEIVE \$1 MILLION

No, Aldersgate is not an Armenian Church, but Armenians can learn from the action of a committed Christian.

A man approached the minister after the service one Sunday and told him he planned to make the church the beneficiary of a \$1 million policy. The anonymous donor was a young, financially secure family man who is a dedicated and active member of a church.

An I.R.S. spokesman has explained

that donors who make churches or other charitable organizations like the AMAA the beneficiaries of insurance policies may deduct the premiums from their tax payments if the policies are written so that the beneficiaries can never be changed.

Many now are considering the benefits of obtaining insurance with a church or a mission as a beneficiary. Our own the late Rev. Dicran Y. Kassouny, M.D. did exactly that. He obtained a life insurance policy for \$20,000 and made the AMAA its beneficiary. His contribution to our Christian programs will thus continue even after his sad parting from us.

TRUST U.S. YOUTH

According to a youth survey conducted in 11 nations by Gallup-affiliated organizations, forty-one percent of American youth, as shown in the chart below, say religion should be "very important" in life. The survey also indicates that the proportion of Protestants and Catholics among the 18 to 24 age group in the U.S. has stayed about the same since World War II. About 48 percent give their religious preference as Protestant, 30 percent as Catholic.

Some additional facts:

- Not even four in ten (39%) of America's teens are currently receiving religious training.

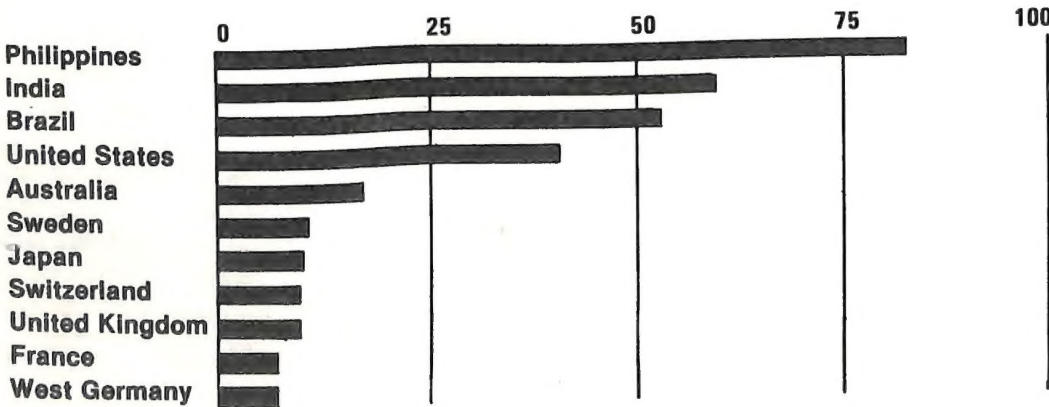
- Belief in God in America has remained nearly the same during the past 30 years (94% believe) while in Scandinavia it has dropped from 81% to 65%.

- 42% of evangelicals are involved in volunteer work compared with 26% of nonevangelical church-goers.

- While 52% of young adults 18 to 29 say extra-marital sex relations are "always wrong" as many as 48% feel differently.

- Need for leadership, hopelessness, unhappiness, gullibility and spiritual emptiness were thought to be the primary reasons why people join cults in a survey taken in the aftermath of the Jonestown tragedy.

HOW IMPORTANT SHOULD RELIGION BE IN LIFE ?
% Saying "Very important"



THE REV. VARTKES KASSOUNI DEFENDS CHRIST

In the January 4, 1980 issue of *Asbarez* the editorial article, "Our Star of Hope," defines Christianity to be a "humanitarian philosophy" and is skeptical about the Christian faith to the extent of ridiculing its expectations for peace on earth as "luminous hope" and claiming it has been a failure: "Almost two thousand years have passed since that philosophy was first preached and eventually established itself as the dominant ideology in a large segment of the world. Yet the world has not become what this philosophy gave us the hope to expect." The editorial concludes that Armenians as good Christians trusted others and were deceived - "we hoped but our hopes were shattered. . . . we can only rely on our own strength. Our only salvation is in our unified hope." The editor rejects Christianity as a viable faith for Armenians.

In a long letter to the editor entitled "Follow the Light," the Reverend Kassouni enters into a long discourse which raises important and valid questions on Armenian unity for Armenians in four or more different world centers. But Kassouni's great contribution is in his wise distinction between Christianity and the political state. "You confuse," he instructs the editor, "the Christian Gospel with what you call 'the Christian world'. . . . Your mistake is in presuming that Armenians became Christians to curry favor with other nations with similar religious orientation and to rely upon them for political and military support." Kassouni argues from a strong historical position that Christianity, a religion based on the person of Jesus and not at all a humanistic philosophy, long ago abandoned the posture of becoming a religio-political empire. Therefore it is a wrong posture "to stay on the Christianity wagon only for the political and national objectives you wish to realize." The peace proclaimed "to men of good will" was not to herald a political kingdom but rather struck at the root of human nature for

Jesus was much concerned about the 'inhumanity of man' caused by the forces of evil in the world. Jesus' concern was to change men to overcome those evil controls! Kassouni's main thrust therefore is that 'Armenian self-reliance' was achieved through its faith, Vartanank being in point, and not taken away because of our nation's belief in Christianity. Kassouni is all for 'unity' but unity on one plan and one strategy with everybody agreeing to work together for its realization.

In an aside, let this editor point out what W.C. Fields, Director of the Baptist Press, has cited Khomeini's regime in Iran as proof positive of the incompetence of religious forces to administer a government. He concludes his statement with these words: "The state is not competent to prescribe religion for any one of its citizens, and conversely, religion is not competent to run government."

HEALTHY AMERICANS

How healthy are Americans? The Surgeon General in his latest report concluded, "the health of the American people has never been better."

- A baby born today can expect to live to be over 73 years old. In 1970 life expectancy was 70, and in 1900 only 47 years.
- Deaths from heart disease, the nation's leading killer, have dropped by 22 percent over the past ten years.
- Deaths from stroke are down 30 percent.
- The U.S. however ranks 14th in world infant mortality rates (14 per 1,000) because the figures for non-whites remain unfortunately high.

There are two main reasons for these dramatic figures:

1. Major improvements in living conditions, sanitation, employment opportunities and greater access to education for all Americans.
2. Major breakthroughs in the field of medicine.

COMMUNIST CHINA PERMITS BIBLE

It has been learned that Communist China has permitted the printing of the Holy Bible, prohibited since 1960.

Permission has also been granted to open the Biblical Seminary of the Evangelical Church, closed for the past 15 years.

JULY 4TH PICNIC

Sponsored by
the
ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA, INC.

on
Friday, July 4, 1980

at the
AMAA/ARMENIAN PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH COMPLEX
A DELICIOUS SHISH - KEBAB DINNER
plus
Children's Activities - Door Prizes
(Door Prizes as Outright Gifts)

WE WELCOME ALL FROM NEW JERSEY,
NEW YORK AND CONNECTICUT TO BE
WITH US AT THIS ANNUAL EVENT
(Details to follow)

FIFTH BIENNIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA and

YOUTH CONVENTION
DATE: JUNE 25-29, 1980
PLACE: MILLS COLLEGE, OAKLAND, CA.
FEES: \$140.00
\$75.00 (Youth & students)
Interested parties may write to:
The Rev. Vigen Galustian, Pastor
Calvary Armenian Congregational Church
270 St. Francis Blvd.
Daly City, CA. 94015

Dr. George L. Mathis, Kiwanis lieutenant governor, was here last week to congratulate the local club for adopting a 7-year-old Syrian girl and designating that the club's contribution be earmarked for her education.

The little girl, Sylvania Kalayan, attends the Armenian Evangelical School in Damascus where she is in the first grade.

The adoption was made through the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

Known for their good works, the local Kiwanians, through their Youth Services Committee, contribute generously to needy children in the Basin area each year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HONORED AT



The Guest of Honor with his lovely wife Yeprouhi

In speaking of the Rev. Dr. Giragos H. Chopourian, Executive Director for more than a decade of the AMAA, Archie Cherkezian stated, "the inner being of Badveli Chopourian has discarded the sacerdotal trappings of title and pomp, and assumed the mantle of simplicity."

This statement, made by the immediate Past President of the AMAA under whom the 60th Anniversary Campaign was executed, characterizes the modesty and humility of the AMAA's chief executive which was attested to by speaker after speaker at the April 13 Testimonial Banquet at the Palisadium in Cliffside Park, New Jersey. Indeed speakers recalled that Dr. Chopourian was reluctant to have the Testimonial held at all. The guest of honor was the only reluctant guest, for hundreds of members of the Armenian Protestant as well as a large number of the orthodox community had turned out to pay tribute to the man who has so ably led the AMAA through a period of growth and intensification of its mission.

Born in Adana, Cilicia in 1914 (a picked up date which is above his chronological), Dr. Chopourian emigrated to Cyprus with his family in 1922. Educated at the American Academy in Larnaca, where he later taught, Dr. Chopourian went on to study at the American University of Beirut and the Near East School of Theology. He received his B.A. with honors from the former and his diploma in religious education from the latter simultaneously in June 1945, with distinction.

Dr. Chopourian married a fellow student, Yeprouhie Der Boghossian, with whom he returned to Cyprus. Both taught at the Academy there. Their three daughters, Aznive Eileen, Sona Vera and Victoria were born in Cyprus over the next four years.

In 1955, the Chopourians came to the United States. Dr. Chopourian earned his Master's in religious education from the Andover Newton Theological School while serving as student pastor at the yoked Bethel Congregational Church of Lawrence, Mass. and the Haverhill Armenian Congregational Church, where he was ordained. He also studied educational and psychological counseling at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

From 1958 to 1969, he was pastor of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Philadelphia, which relocated to Havertown, Pa., during his pastorate. He was active as Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union, Eastern States in 1960; Moderator of the Philadelphia Association of the United Church of Christ, 1967; and Board member and Vice President of the AMAA. In his spare time, he began his studies for his doctorate at Temple University, receiving his Ph.D. in church history in 1971.

In January, 1969, he was appointed Executive Director of the AMAA. During his tenure, the AMAA has grown dramatically, moving to new quarters in Paramus, New Jersey. The 60th Anniversary Campaign was successfully carried out, as was the Ellis Island Remembered Project. The organization's financial worth, and its local and international outreach, have grown. Scholarship activities and immigration assistance have intensified. Dr. Chopourian serves as editor of the AMAA NEWS in addition to his administrative duties, and has authored two books: *Our Armenian Christian Heritage* and *The Armenian Reformation: Causes and Effects*.

All this – and more – was said about Dr. Chopourian at the Testimonial tribute to his energies and achievements. The program began with an invocation by the Rev. S.S. Sulahian, Pastor Emeritus of the Armenian Evangelical Church in New York. Mrs. Jack Dokouzian, Co-Chairman of the Banquet Committee (with Mrs. Edward Janjigian), welcomed the guests and introduced the master of ceremonies, Dr. John G. Keuhnelian, AMAA Past President. During the course of the afternoon, Dr. Keuhnelian presented a slide show on "Our Man in Paramus."

George Philibosian, Moderator of the Armenian Evangelical Union and a past president of the AMAA, extolled the guest of honor for his "very warm" personality and remarked that he is "the type of person who continually asks himself whether he is doing his best."

On behalf of the Chopourian family, Dr. Chopourian's son-in-law, Harry Stephey, spoke. Dr. Chopourian's two sisters had flown in from England for the occasion – Zarouhie Trott and her two children and Azadouhie and her husband George Black and the younger of their two sons, Richard. From Cyprus, nephew Albert Chopourian had flown in to represent his parents, Loutfig and Nevart. Also present were his three married daughters with their husbands – Aznive Eileen Stephey and her three children, Sona Vera and Thomas Bailey, and Victoria and Thomas Gehrt.

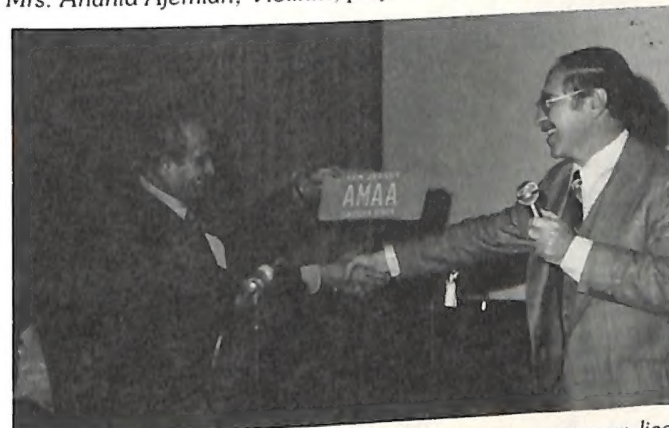


Mrs. Marguerite Dokouzian, center, welcoming guests. Seated, left, Miss Ruth Philibosian, and Dr. G.H. Chopourian, right.

TESTIMONIAL BANQUET APRIL 13



Mrs. Anahid Ajemian, Violinist, performing



AMAA President Samuel Hekemian (left) presenting new licence plate to Dr. Chopourian.



The Reverends Harry Missirlian (left) and Giragos Chopourian reminiscing about happy old days. . . .



Dr. Chopourian thanking his son-in-law Harry Stephey

The Rev. Edward S. Tovmassian, who had preceded Dr. Chopourian as Executive Director of the AMAA and the Rev. Harry Missirlian, pastor of the Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church in Fresno, Dr. Chopourian's personal friend since 1938, both praised the guest of honor for his unwavering dedication to principles. Samuel Hekemian, President of the AMAA, followed Archie Cherkezian to the dais, and presented Dr. Chopourian with a welcome surprise – a set of New Jersey license plates with the letters "AMAA." Another gift was a plaque from the Board of Directors paying tribute to Dr. Chopourian for his "tireless efforts and outstanding accomplishments as the Executive Director of the AMAA for the past eleven years." The plaque had been designed in the form of an Armenian manuscript illumination.

Miss Ruth Philibosian, Honorary Life Member of the AMAA, surprised Dr. Chopourian with more gifts – a set of watches for Dr. Chopourian and his wife, and the announcement of a substantial gift to the AMAA from the Stephen Philibosian Foundation for valuable services rendered voluntarily.

In his response, Dr. Chopourian evidenced his usual modesty. "No man can make an association, but an organization like the AMAA makes the man," he upheld. He thanked the AMAA for the opportunity which the organization has given him. Speaking of the honors customarily accorded to the clergy, he stressed that this recognition results from the church served. "If we are known to be leaders, it is because of the congregation. . . . I am known because of the AMAA, and I cannot forget that. . . . I am. . . . an instrument of a great cause, and I want all of you to know that you may choose the AMAA as a tool for the advancement of the Armenian people, now and in the future."

Joining in the tribute to this very humble man was violinist Anahid Ajemian, a member of the Composer String Quartet. She was accompanied by Jacqueline Grau.



Miss Ruth Philibosian (left) presenting gift to Mrs. Chopourian

The program was brought to its conclusion with a benediction by the Rev. G. Diran Minassian of San Diego, California.

In a silent, but equally devoted tribute to the AMAA Executive Director, the Banquet Committee, chaired by Mesdames Dokouzian and Janjigian, had orchestrated a splendid reception and dinner with a touch of Armenian cuisine. Committee members were Mrs. Nerses Aynilian, Mrs. Gerard Baghdassarian, Mrs. Archie Cherkezian, Mrs. Robert Hekemian, Mrs. Samuel Hekemian, Mrs. John Keuhnelian, Dr. John Keuhnelian, Mrs. Serge Krikorian, Mrs. Alex Matossian, Mrs. George Philibosian, Miss Ruth Philibosian, Mrs. Joseph Stein, Jr., Mrs. Jirayr Tezel, and Mrs. John Voskian.



After the Banquet, a moment of Discussion, (center) The Honorable Set Momjian, (left) Mrs. Lucy Janjigian, and Dr. Vahe S. Roubian (r.)



Dr. Chopourian happily displays certificate of appreciation presented by AMAA Board of Directors



Heads bowed in prayer, (left) Rev. Harry Missirlian, (center) Rev. G. Diran Minassian giving the benediction, and Dr. John G. Keuhnelian, Master of Ceremonies.

NEW BOOKS RECEIVED

Return to Mount Ararat or The Education of Nshan

By H.H. Haig

Vantage Press, Inc., New York, 1980,
pp. 85, \$5.95.

Daughter of the Euphrates

By Elizabeth Caraman

Armenian Missionary Association of
America, Inc., 2nd Printing, Paramus,
N.J., 1979, pp. 227, \$4.95.

Toomas: The Little Armenian Boy

By Thomas G. Aved

Pioneer Publishing, Fresno, California,
1979, pp. 1980, \$10.95.

Some of Us Survived

By Kerop Bedoukian

Farrar Straus Giroux, New York,
1979, pp. 242, \$9.95.

I Love America

By Bedros M. Sharian, Sr.

Vintage Press, Inc., New York, 1974,
pp. 64, \$3.95.

Olive Trees Grow Again

By Mary A. Heghin

Sekhim Publishing, Altadena, CA,
1976, pp. 198,

The Road From Home

By David Kherdian

Greenwillow Books, New York, 1979,
pp. 238, \$8.95.

Giankee Echeren

By Kegham Khanamirian

New York, 1979, pp.351,

Nor Tzayn, Nor Artzagunk

By Haroutune Cholakian

Paradon Publishers, New York, 1978,
pp. 358, \$20.00.

For All Seasons

By Carnegie S. Calian

John Knox Press, Atlanta, 1979, pp.
135, \$7.50.

The AMAA Bookstore will be glad to supply interested parties with any one of the books listed above. Each one of the books is highly recommended. The first eight of the books have to do with Armenian tragedies and struggles for existence, item number nine is on politico-church-culture matters, and Calian's is appropriate for daily christian encounters.

A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The 50th Anniversary of the ordination of Rev. Hovey M. Hovagimian of Oakland was celebrated on Palm Sunday afternoon, March 30, 1980, in the presence of overflowing well-wishers from the Bay Area, other parts of California and Iran, coming from various Armenian and American churches, nationalities, racial and cultural groups and clergy. The Rev. Hovey Hovagimian, well known and respected in the Bay Area, was born in Tabriz, Iran and is a graduate of Armenian schools and the College there. He came to Chicago in 1926. He earned his theological, Christian Education and Social Service degrees and diplomas at the Presbyterian Seminary, College of Christian Education, University of Chicago, Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, as well as post graduate studies at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley.

He has served as teacher, evangelist and pastor in Iran, France, also in Chicago, West Pullman, Evanston, Waukegan in Illinois; San Francisco, Armenian Calvary Congregational Church, Ocean Avenue Presbyterian Church, Bethel Armenian Evangelical Church; in Oakland, Hillside and Brooklyn Presbyterian Churches; in Sacramento, Armenian Evangelical Church. He was retired by the San Francisco Presbytery in 1971, P. Em. of Brooklyn.

Many congratulatory messages were received locally and from overseas. There were delegations from Armenian and American Churches, various international, interracial, and intercultural organizations, masonic and other fraternal and Senior groups.

Rev. Hovagimian, "Hovey," is a life member of the Armenian Missionary Association and the Armenian General Benevolent Union, Starr King, #344, F.&A.M. and Oakland Scottish Rite, Oakland Commandery #11, Knights Templar. He is a Past State and local President of the Armenian-American Citizens League; during his year of office the Armenian Home for the Aged in Fresno was founded. He is credited to have the first Armenian radio pro-



The Rev. Hovey Hovagimian

gram and yearbook of the Armenian Community in the Bay Area. For the last five years he is the Over-All Coordinator of AARP-NRTA Tax-Aide Training program in the Bay Area, in cooperation with State and Federal IRS.

All present were served a delicious dinner, and witnessed an inspiring Armenian and American musical program. The celebration was held in the Social Hall of Park Blvd. Presbyterian Church of Oakland, and was presided over by the Rev. Dr. Howard Newman, pastor of Ocean Avenue Presbyterian Church of San Francisco.

The generous voluntary money gifts to the "Golden Tree" became a part of an initial \$1,000.00 "Hovey and Jean Religious Fund" with the Armenian Missionary Association of America, the income of which Fund to be an Easter Gift, yearly, to a needy retired Armenian Evangelical pastor in Iran.

GAREN YEGPARIAN FINALIST IN 1980 PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The U.S. Office of Education and the Commission on Presidential Scholars announced the names of the 1980 Finalists in the Presidential Scholars Program, which annually identifies the most distinguished and accomplished graduating high school seniors in the nation.

Garen Yegparian, son of Vram and Azniv Yegparian, is one of the 1,000 outstanding young American students to become a Finalist in this program from among more than three million seniors to graduate this year. He has been awarded a certificate by the Pres-

ident's Commission on Presidential Scholars. Garen Yegparian is a graduating senior at Toms River High School North. The selection of those Finalists who will become Presidential Scholars will be made in April by the members of the President's Commission on Presidential Scholars. Selection is based on numerous factors in addition to academic excellence; for example, achievement in the visual and performing arts and creative writing; demonstrated leadership ability; contribution of energy and creativity to school and community; and achievement in the sciences and other fields of interest.

MRS. ADA BARKER



We had the distinct privilege of meeting Mrs. Ada Barker, missionary to Hadjin, Giligia starting in the late ninth decade of the 19th century. She, together with her husband, salvaged more than 300 Armenian orphans before and after the Armenian genocide. She was also instrumental in making arrangements for the care of Armenian orphans in Canada who were settled in Georgetown and are now known as the Georgetown Boys.

Born August 8, 1875, coming in into her 105th year next August, Ada was 9 years old when she gave her life to the Lord and was 18 when she received her call to serve as missionary of the Christian Alliance Convention. In the picture taken on May 10, 1980, are G.H. Chopourian, Harry Barkian and Dr. John J. Markarian when they had an inspirational fellowship with her.

WHERE OUR ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL PASTORS ARE TRAINED

By far the greatest number of the pastors for our evangelical churches are trained at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut, an interdenominational Protestant seminary serving the Middle East evangelical churches with instruction done primarily in English.

The Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East is one of the five governing denominations. The school receives students from other church traditions and welcomes students from beyond the Middle East who have a special interest in the Orthodox and Oriental Churches, in Islamic studies or in Biblical research in the cultural setting of the Middle East.

All educational residential facilities of the NEST are housed within its modern and well-equipped building in convenient proximity to other educational institutions, including Haigazian College and the American University of Beirut, whose teaching resources are available to NEST students through cross-registration arrangements.

Although the school has been adversely affected by the events of recent years in Lebanon, it has been able to keep its doors open and is now attempting to rebuild its student body and to reach out in new directions.

Despite the unrest and recurrent turmoil in some parts of the country, it is possible to carry on normal activities in other areas, including the sector of Beirut in which the NEST is located.

Academic Program

Degrees offered are Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.), a 4-year program with one third of courses taken at one of the neighboring liberal arts institutions; Bachelor of Arts in Christian Education (BACE), granted by Haigazian College in cooperation with NEST; Master of Arts in Christian Education (MACE); Master of Divinity (M.Div.), a 3-year program preparing the student for pastoral ministry; Master of Sacred Theology (STM) which is a research degree providing indepth training in a particular area of theological study.

Special Students

Persons who are interested in taking courses of their choice and who do not wish to study a prescribed program for a degree or diploma may be registered also as special students. Cross-registration arrangements are in effect with the American University of Beirut, the Beirut University College and the Haigazian College. Theology students from Europe or U.S.A. who have a

special interest in the Middle East may spend a semester or an academic year at the NEST.

Fees

Fees for the 1979-80 academic year (October to June) in Lebanese Pounds were as follows:

Tuition	2250
Board	1750
Room	1000
Total	L.P. 5000 (about \$1,600)

Financial Aid

The school makes every effort to find the scholarship resources for the financial assistance of church-sponsored candidates who could not otherwise pursue their studies. To the extent of their resources, sponsoring churches are expected to contribute to the support of their students.

The Armenian Missionary Association of America and Armenian Theological Student Aid have provided scholarships to Armenian students approximately for the past 50 years all made possible by annual gifts by generous Armenians. **We can use a few scholarships this year.** Please pray about your share in the training of Christian workers.



Library Scene



Classroom Scene

OBITUARIES



PERLANTY CHERKEZIAN

Perlanty Cherkezian, loving and devoted mother of Esther and Archie Cherkezian; grandmother; great grandmother; sister of John and Robinson Keyishian, went to her eternal rest on April 5, 1980. Services were held on April 8, 1980 at the Conway Funeral Home, Jackson Heights, N.Y. She was predeceased by her husband, William Cherkezian, whose death in 1962 took a serious toll on her health from which she never quite recovered.

Perlanty was born in Chomaklou (Caesarea) to Haroutune and Doudou Keyishian. After receiving her elementary education in Chomaklou, the American missionaries, noticing Perlanty's scholastic ability, urged her parents to send her to their school in Talas for further education. After much convincing, her parents relented and she attended the Talas School until 1914 when she could not continue due to the war and fear of deportation that ensued in the Armenian community. She was asked to teach in a local girls' school until the deportation of the family in 1915.

As for millions of other Armenians throughout Turkey, the family's deportation caused unimaginable and extreme difficulties and tragedies resulting in the loss of life of several members of the family including Perlanty's grandmother, two younger brothers and her father, Haroutune. In a desperate struggle for survival, the family walked forty days and nights to Aleppo, Syria. They were then jammed into slow cattle trains for a long and arduous journey to Maan and then Shobek (a small village) in the interior of Arabia. However, with jobs unavailable the family considered themselves extremely fortunate when the Aharon

Shirazian Orphanage admitted them. On discovering Perlanty's knowledge and ability they appointed her to the post of Teacher/Mother to 25 young children. After three years the Orphanage made her assistant to Mrs. Norton, an American missionary in Aleppo, with whom she worked until 1921 when she left for the United States with brother Robinson and Mr. Mihran Cherkezian to be married to her fiancé of one year, William Cherkezian. Her brother John Keyishian had preceded her by one year.

Perlanty and William were active members of the Armenian Evangelical Church of New York. Perlanty was a member of the Church's Ladies Aid Society, was elected a Church-Mother and was instrumental in forming a Women's Auxiliary of the Chomaklu Compatriotic Society, serving three years as President.

She was not only an avid reader but a writer, having contributed numerous articles to the *Arkeos* and memoirs of the deportations for *Ararat* magazine. Her educational background and experience gave her an intense desire to give their children a good education. That dream was realized when both her children completed their college education.

In a tribute entitled "A Eulogy from Son to Mother," Archie Cherkezian states:

"In his ode, 'ON A GRECIAN URN,' the sensitive poet Keats says: 'Truth is beauty, beauty truth.' The symbols of living a life based on these principles were carved on an urn, in glowing colors, for the world to see and admire, forever and ever.

"A way of life, a daily living, based on these Christian beliefs were impressed upon the hearts of all who met Mother.

"Beauty of mind and beauty of heart, like love, is a gift, and like a gift, is and must be given freely. Mother gave freely and abundantly of these precious gifts to those who would receive them.

"She was a woman in the classical sense. In her early years, as a young lady, even amidst the trag-

edies of the Armenian genocide, she served her fellow man by teaching children to read and later helping to nurse hundreds of girls in Aleppo.

"In her middle years, she was a devoted wife to William, a loving, tender, ever-caring mother to Esther and Archie, and later to their families, grandchildren, great grandchild, brothers and relatives. Throughout all her life, her one recurring theme was faith, family and home. Never did she waver.

"In her later years, her compassionate, creative nature compelled her, although ill, to write her memoirs, helped by her daughter Esther, describing the simple, God-fearing families of her hometown; their mode of life, their ascent through the infamy of mental and physical dangers of the massacres into the bright and glorious sunshine of America, of which she was a part.

"From where did this remarkable woman draw her strength? From our Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. This commitment never wavered.

"When infirmity overtook her, her daughter Esther was constantly at her side. During my last visit, prior to her entering the hospital, she said, 'I pray for all of you, my loved ones, three times a day.' Now through Jesus Christ our Lord, she is in His loving care.

"We grieve her departure from this earth, as an individual and as a mother, but we feel happy and deeply grateful that God loaned her to us, that we might receive her blessings, her love, her services, her compassionate creativity and her teachings — all of which will remain indelibly stamped on our hearts and minds for our lives forever. Amen."

The Board of Directors of the AMAA extends deep and heartfelt sympathies to their immediate past President and friend, Archie Cherkezian, during whose presidency the AMAA 60th Anniversary and the now famous Ellis Island Project were executed, as well as to the entire family of Perlanty Cherkezian who, though absent from the body is present with her Lord.

MRS. VICTORIA PHILIBOSIAN

Mrs. Victoria Philibosian of Rumania, mother of our past President Mr. George Philibosian and current Moderator of the AEUNA, and daughter of the former Miss Laffjian and husband Mr. Missak Hubeserian of Talas, Caesarea, entered her eternal rest in Rumania on April 16, 1980.

Victoria was born in Konia, Turkey, in 1897. She was a person of small physical stature but of tall moral principles, whose ethics and religion were genuinely visible in all her relationships. She was very well educated and was a wonderful human being. She taught in the elementary school in Konia before her marriage to Mr. Haigazoon Philibosian. The couple were blessed with four children – two daughters and two sons. Of the two brothers, George came to the United States in 1948 and Artin in 1970. Artin died recently in U.S. and Niver, the older of the girls, died in Rumania in very touching circumstances causing the family deep grief. Niver was engaged to be married and a serious illness took her away before her marriage. Angel lived with their mother until recently.

The Philibosian family did not suffer the usual tragedies that most Armenians experienced because Haigazoon was a big supplier to the Turkish government along with his Turkish partner. Because of the Government's needs, his family was not driven into the deserts. Haigazoon, who passed away in 1972, not only saved his family, but many other hundreds of Armenians. His relationship with his Turkish partner was such that instead of proceeding to the United States for which authority had been obtained, he took his family to Rumania because his partner wanted him nearby so they could visit. The Philibosians moved from Konia to Istanbul in 1918 and to Rumania in 1921.

In spite of leaving her homeland; witnessing the death of her daughter, husband and son; and experiencing a mother's loneliness on parting from her two sons, one for 34 and the other for 14 years as a result of the political situation in Rumania, she courageous-

ly faced life due to her Christian faith until her death at age 84. At the time of her death, Victoria's one remaining sister, Siranoush, was with her.

The immediate surviving kin are her son George and spouse Alice Philibosian and their four sons and one daughter; Angel, her daughter; and her sister, Siranoush Arakelian, who is still in Rumania with her family. She is also survived by Artin's wife and the latter's two daughters.

The Board of Directors extends very sincere sympathies and prays that the memories of a loving, caring, intelligent, and Christian mother may sustain the immediate kin and become beacons of light for the same kind of life she believed in and lived for.

Karl Avakian

MICHAEL VARTANIAN

Mr. Michael Vartanian of Milwaukee, Wisconsin entered his eternal rest on February 19, 1980 after a long and uncomfortable illness. Funeral services were held on February 22, 1980 at St. John's Armenian Church in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

Mr. Vartanian left 200 AT&T common stocks to the AMAA, the income from which will be used according to the stipulations of his Will. He also had assigned a similar amount of stocks to his Church, St. John's Armenian Church, income from which is assigned for scholarships to deserving students of his church and the community.

Because of his love for music, Mr. Vartanian had an orchestra when still young. But due to the late hours this type of work demanded and because he realized that kind of life was not what he wanted, he went into the highly successful hairdressing business in which at one time he employed as many as 20 workers serving the top clientele of Milwaukee.

Mr. Vartanian was married in July 1948 to the former Lily (Aghavnie) Melikian who had come to the United States from Egypt in 1947. Her parents had emigrated from Sivas to Egypt



when she was only a baby. Mr. Vartanian had also emigrated from Sivas to the United States in 1920. The couple were blessed with three sons: Edward, an MA graduate from the University of Wisconsin now employed as a computer programmer and analyst; David and Tom who are university students.

The members of the Board of Directors extend their deep sympathies to Mrs. Vartanian and her three sons, wishing all of them the courage that emanates from a trust in God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

MR. KHOREN GARABEDIAN

We have recently learned of the passing away of Mr. Khoren Garabedian, brother of Mr. Hazar Garabedian of South Bend, Indiana.

Khoren Garabedian was born in Rodosto in the Tekir Dag Holy Cross Quarter on December 15, 1912. He served in the Second World War against the Japanese on the Island of Okinawa where he was also wounded and was discharged as a disabled American soldier. He died in the Veteran's Administration Hospital on January 31, 1980. Funeral services were from the Jack Sarafian Funeral Home on February 5, 1980 at 10:00 a.m. celebrated by Father Shahe Altoonian. Interment was at the Belmont Memorial Park Cemetery in Fresno, California.

Surviving are his wife Marian; son Robert V., of Fresno; his mother, Eva, of South Bend, Indiana; a brother, Hazar, of South Bend, Indiana; and a sister, Kayanne Oxian of South Bend.

The Board of Directors extends sympathy to his beloved wife Marian and the immediate kin.

The AMAA Board of Directors extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased through the medium of the AMAA NEWS.

- *Mrs. Aznive Arabian Belmont, MA
- *Mrs. Makrouhi Kalaydjian Larnaca, Cyprus
- *Loutfig Koundakjian Lebanon
- *Dicran Mesrobian Michigan
- *Mrs. Victoria Tolajian Watertown, MA
- Mrs. Sion Vartanian Syracuse, N.Y. Nov., 1979
- Mr. John Avakian Van Nuys, CA Nov. 23, 1979
- Mr. Edward Nazarian Los Angeles, CA Jan., 1980
- Mr. Frank Karabian Fresno, CA Jan. 26, 1980
- *Mr. Khoren Garabedian Fresno, CA Jan. 31, 1980
- *Mrs. Irene Juskalian Florida & Rhode Island Feb. 1980
- Mr. Ralph Paul Fresno, CA Feb. 5, 1980
- *Mr. Michael Vartanian Milwaukee, WI Feb. 19, 1980
- Mr. Nishan Jevahirjian San Clemente, CA Feb. 20, 1980
- Mrs. Ruth Kaprielian CA Feb. 23, 1980
- *F. Louise Matthews Oakland, CA Feb. 24, 1980
- *Mrs. Bessie May Dadukian San Diego, CA March, 1980
- *Haiganoush Garabedian Salem, N.H. March, 1980
- *David Vartanian, JR. March, 1980
- *Mrs. Yemime Terzian Latham, N.Y. March, 1980
- *Mrs. Baldzar Tokatlian Athens, Greece March 3, 1980
- Mr. Aram Terzian Fresno, CA March 4, 1980
- Mrs. Perlanty Cherkezian Jackson Heights, N.Y. April 5, 1980
- Mrs. Victoria Philibosian Rumania April 16, 1980
- Mr. Mihran Kassabian Los Angeles, CA October, 1979
- Mr. Cyrus Mitchell Johnston Dallas, TX February 25, 1980
- *Mrs. Hermine Mihran Schenectady, NY May, 1980
- *Mrs. Armine Serijanian Grand Rapids, MI May 16, 1980
- *Memorials were designated for AMAA.
- *A bequest.

OUR MISSION IN IRAN

Concerned individuals repeatedly ask, "Has Arpine been able to continue her work." Yes, Arpine's youth activities continue unabated. She reports as follows:

"Jan. 1 - Jan. 31 – On Armenian Christmas Eve, I took our Youth Group Choir Christmas carolling and were gratefully and happily accepted. Some of the people gave us money which will go towards the purchase of a second-hand piano which will be used by the youth group members who wish to take piano lessons but do not own a piano. We accumulated 31,400 rials (\$314) towards the piano which will cost 120,000 rials (\$1,200). We hope our friends will help in supplying the additional funds needed. The Youth Choir also sang in St. John's Church after which five members were officially accepted in the membership. A program was presented on Christmas afternoon by the Friday Bible School children of the Holy Spirit Church at Majedieh. The children enacted the Christmas story.

"A winter retreat was held for the first time at Baghbesharat, our conference center on January 17. We prepared a cozy and warm place for our activities. It was a blessed day for all.

"April 1 - April 30 – On Easter Sunday, April 6, our Youth Group led the Sunrise Worship Service followed with breakfast served to the congregation by the young people.

"A spring youth retreat was held on April 18 at Baghbesharat attended by 70 young people from three of our church centers in Tehran.

"With the revival of religion in our country, Christians have also been affected showing a keener interest in the truths of the Bible. We thank the Lord for His care and protection and despite the difficulties and unrestful situation in our country we are able to continue all our church and school activities on a regular basis."

Please pray for the work in Iran. The AMAA would like to hear from all the annual supporters and others as well.

Dear A.M.A.A.

While the time is ripe I do want to provide my financial support to the work of Arpine Aghabegian in Tehran and will pledge to pray for God's spirit to work in the hearts of the youth in Iran.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your gifts to the A.M.A.A. are tax deductible and really appreciated.

Armenian Missionary Association Projects

Return Reply Form

(Check the appropriate boxes, then tear out this form and mail in your envelope)

My check or money order for \$ _____ is enclosed for the project listed below

My Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I'M INTERESTED IN:

☐ ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL SOCIAL SERVICE CENTER, LOS ANGELES

For multiple type assistance to new immigrants, the AMAA needs \$30,000 to encourage greater service. \$ _____

☐ HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE

To put the College budget in the black, \$250,000 are required. \$ _____

☐ ISTANBUL YOUTH HOME

Illiterate children from the interior of Turkey are taught their Christian heritage and national identity. \$ _____

☐ 10 HIGH AND 40 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

To put these schools back on a non-deficit level, \$150,000 are required. \$ _____

☐ TRAINING OF THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS

Scholarship provisions will bring great spiritual returns. \$ _____

☐ RECRUITMENT OF MINISTERIAL CANDIDATES

The Executive Director will be going on a recruiting tour soon. Contributions to the cost of the program and scholarships are being called for. \$ _____

☐ LUNCH FOR CHILDREN

Lunch arrangements for needy children are carried out in Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Greece and Iran. Help needed. \$ _____

☐ CAMPS FOR CHILDREN

Such provision for needy children exists in Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, Greece, and Iran. Let us use these opportunities for the upbuilding of youth. \$ _____

☐ MEDICAL EXPENSES

Regular appeals are made to the AMAA to assist with the medical expenses of the poor. Help us to help them, please. \$ _____

☐ RELIEF FOR LEBANON

☐ SOUTH AMERICAN MISSION

☐ INSTITUTE FOR THE ARMENIAN BLIND AND DEAF

The AMAA represents the Institute and transmits all donations to the Institute. Feel free to use our channel. \$ _____

☐ AGHABEGIAN(MAHSHIGIAN) MISSION TO IRAN

Our missionary to Iran needs greater assistance for her Sunday School, Daily Vacation Bible School, Christian Endeavor, Youth Work and Evangelism in camps in Tehran and surroundings. \$ _____

☐ CHILD EVANGELISM

Your donations for this purpose may be marked for the following:

☐ For Child Evangelism work in the United States, \$5,000 are needed. \$ _____

☐ Christian Endeavor Union, Kchag, Lebanon \$ _____

☐ Mrs. Arpine (Mahshigian) Aghabegian, Tehran and Isfahan, Iran \$ _____

☐ The Rev. Krikor Demirjian, Athens, Greece \$ _____

☐ ADULT EVANGELISM

We are "enablers" in the preaching of the Gospel in word and print. Without such encouragement, all of our helpers would suffer in their efforts to reach people.

☐ Misak Gunay in Istanbul and his publication *Sevgi Yolu* \$ _____

☐ Tchanasser, bi-monthly of Beirut \$ _____

☐ Pamper, monthly of France \$ _____

☐ Rev. Yesayi Sarmazian's Amanos Mission, Lebanon \$ _____

☐ PUBLICATIONS

☐ Books. \$ _____

☐ AMAA News, Paramus, N.J. \$ _____

☐ ENDOWMENT FUND

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 4 Arpee, Leon. A Century of Armenian Protestantism, (pb).....2.50
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 *14c Bible, Armenian NT, size 8½" x 5¾" (hc) very large print.....9.50
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IF YOU ALREADY HAVE A WILL...

Mr. M. felt good about having his will written. He tucked it safely away in his bank box, breathed a contented sigh, and never thought about it again.

He had provided for his wife, his son, and his favorite charity, feeling that the amount he had designated for each would be appropriate. He provided the necessary resources to see his family through adjustments, supply income for his wife, and a healthy boost to the charity, which was the residual beneficiary also.

During the next twenty years, Mr. M. prospered far more than he had expected. His estate grew, through fortunate investments and an inheritance from his uncle.

When Mr. M. died, his astonished wife and son learned that she was to receive \$15,000 of the estate, the son \$5,000, and another \$5,000, plus the residue to the charity... \$150,000!

By contesting the will, the wife and son were able to equalize the bequests; however, the process was lengthy and cost them considerably in expense as well as frustration and time.

If Mr. M. had reviewed his will even once during those twenty years, he would have seen immediately that a new will was called for... but he never thought to do so.

Reports indicate that more than half the adults who die in America each year do not have wills. And of those who do, most should have updated their wills at some point.

Here are a few of the reasons a will might need changing:

1) A move to a new state of residence. State laws govern the distribution of estates, and these laws vary from state to state. If you move to another state, be sure to have an attorney in your new state review your will to be sure it complies with the law there.

2) A death in the family, or birth, or marriage. Any change in the family membership should call for a review of your will, to be sure that you have included all the heirs you intend to, and that any bequest for a deceased member is covered by the proper clause. Married names of daughters, nieces, sisters should be given.

3) An inheritance. Your will should reflect the new addition to your estate, and if you feel the property should revert back to your side of the family (rather than to a spouse) after your death, this should be designated in your will.

4) A change in your giving interests. Through the years significant changes do occur in our values, in our personal involvement in charitable causes of many kinds... and certainly many people grow in their commitment to Christ and the Great Commission. You may find that a will written many years ago is inadequate because it does not include a bequest for missions, if this is one of your lifetime concerns.

Remember that "your last will and testament" doesn't have to be your final one. Wills can be rewritten or amended at any time. A new will, properly signed, witnessed and dated, replaces any previous will.

For further information on writing or updating your will, write to: Planned Giving Department, AEUNA/AMAA, 140 Forest Avenue, Paramus, N.J. 07652.

WE'RE ASKING FOR YOUR FINAL GIFT TO MISSIONS!

Your final gift? Yes, that gift which you can plan **now** and give **later** — through a bequest in your will. (Of course, we trust you'll want to continue giving in the meantime, too!) The world out-reach of the AEUNA/AMAA will be accomplished as dedicated people plan and give, including their testamentary gifts.



A will is of primary importance for your family, too. You'll do them a favor if you write your will — and keep it up-to-date.

For help in writing or updating your will, write for our free booklet, "37 Things People Know About Wills That Aren't Really So." It is an authoritative and eye-opening publication and it's yours on request. There's no obligation.

— CLIP AND MAIL —

To: Planned Giving Department
AEUNA/AMAA
140 Forest Avenue
Paramus, N.J. 07652

☐ Please send me a free copy of the booklet, "37 Things People Know About Wills That Aren't Really So."

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